

CLAIMS

1. An apparatus comprising:

a drive server configured to present one or more compressed data streams in response to one or more first control signals;

5 a control server configured to present said one or more compressed data streams received from said drive server in response to one or more request signals; and

10 one or more decoder devices, at least one of said one or more decoder devices being disposed in a separate room from said control server and said drive server, each of said one or more decoder devices being configured to (i) decode at least one of said one or more compressed data streams received from said control server and (ii) present at least one signal selected from a decoded video signal and a decoded audio signal in response to decoding  
15 said one or more compressed data streams.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said one or more decoder devices are remotely controlled.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said decoder devices are configured to generate said decoded video signal and said decoded audio signal in further response to one or more second control signals.

4. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said one or more decoder devices are configured to enter a diagnostic mode in response to one of said one or more second control signals.

5. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said one or more compressed data streams comprise one or more DVD bitstreams.

6. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said drive server generates a plurality of compressed data streams that may each be presented to two or more of said decoder devices.

7. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said plurality of compressed data streams are presented to said decoder devices in response to navigation software.

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8. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control server is connected to said one or more decoder devices using (i) one or more universal serial bus interfaces or (ii) one or more 1394 interfaces.

9. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said one or more compressed data streams is selected from the group consisting of a digital television (DTV) signal, a satellite signal, and a cable signal.

10. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a navigation software to control one or more user input signals is stored in one or more of said decoder devices.

11. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a navigation software to control one or more user input signals is stored in the control server.

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12. An apparatus comprising:

a drive server configured to present one or more DVD  
bitstreams in response to one or more first control signals;

a control server configured to present said one or more  
5 DVD bitstreams received from said drive server in response to one  
or more first remotely generated request signals ; and

one or more decoder devices, at least one of said one or  
more decoder devices being disposed in a separate room from said  
control server and said driver server, each of said one or more  
10 decoder devices being configured to (i) decode at least one of said  
one or more DVD bitstreams received from said control server and  
(ii) present at least one signal selected from a decoded video  
signal and a decoded audio signal in response to decoding said one  
or more DVD bitstreams.

13. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said  
decoder devices are configured to generate said decoded video  
signal and said decoded audio signal in further response to one or  
more second control signals.

14. A method for distributing video comprising the steps  
of:

(A) presenting one or more compressed data streams with  
a drive server to a control server in response to one or more first  
5 control signals;

(B) distributing said one or more compressed data  
streams received from said drive server with said control server to  
one or more decoder devices in response to one or more request  
signals;

(C) decoding at least one of said one or more compressed  
data streams with said one or more decoders in response to  
receiving said one or more compressed data streams from said  
control server; and

(D) presenting at least one signal selected from a  
15 decoded video signal and a decoded audio signal in response to  
decoding said at least one of said one or more compressed data  
streams, wherein at least one of said one or more decoders is  
disposed in a separate room from said control server and said  
driver server.

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15. The method according to claim 14, wherein said one or more compressed data streams are feed from said control server to said one or more decoders using (i) one or more universal serial bus interfaces or (ii) one or more 1394 interfaces.

16. The method according to claim 14, wherein said one or more compressed data streams comprise one or more DVD bitstreams.

17. The method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of:

storing software to control and decode said one or more compressed data streams in (i) said one or more decoder devices or (ii) a central server.

18. The method according to claim 14, wherein step (D) further responds to one or more second control signals.